



Allandale Neighbor

Aug 2013
Vol 28, Issue 4

DISTRIBUTED TO MORE THAN 4,500 HOMES BY THE ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Lamar is Going Green

Ami McChesney

Have you wondered what's "growing on" at Lamar Middle School? If so, then take some time to visit Lamar's edible gardens. The vegetable gardens are located near the intersection of Burnet Road and Romeria, near the Band Hall. Currently, there are three fruit trees and 15 raised beds growing everything from A (for Asparagus) to Z (for Zucchini).

As you may know, the field surrounding Lamar's track has plenty of sun to offer and also plenty of grass. But who wants to eat Bermuda grass, so why not use the empty space to grow food? In June of 2011, a group of parents and teachers installed the first four garden beds. A parent initiative grant from Texas Action for Healthy Kids provided the "seed" money for this project.

During the 2011-2012 school year, approximately 15 students participated in the garden club known as GIY club (Grow It Yourself Club). Every Thursday after school, students worked in the garden: they grew herbs, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and artichokes during the fall. In the spring they planted tomatoes, potatoes, eggplants, peppers, asparagus, watermelon, cantaloupe, sweet potatoes, and squash. In December 2011, students helped to plant two trees, a red oak and a live oak, for Sustainable Neighborhoods. Students also learned about composting and vermicomposting, and went on a field trip to 5-Mile Farms.

This school year, students in several culinary arts classes learned about growing seasonal produce by gardening organically

and sustainably. These students got to eat the watermelons that had been growing all summer, too! They also planted a new fall garden and used the fresh produce for cooking. Students met with the cafeteria manager, Ms. Tina Castillo, to learn about Farm to School, a program managed by AISD and the Sustainable Food Center. Ms. Castillo explained to students that she can now order some of the fresh produce served at lunch from local farmers; these items would be marked "local" in the serving line. She showed students a sample list and asked them to be "ambassadors" for the program, by encouraging their friends to try out a new vegetable, especially if marked "local."

Teachers at Lamar use the garden as a resource to reinforce concepts learned in the classroom. For example, students study ecosystems, insects and their lifecycles in science class. In the garden students can observe ladybugs and lacewings in all lifecycle stages. They also learn about how these insects fit into the garden ecosystem. Students are able to measure the garden beds into square feet with string and calculate perimeter, area, and

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

ANA EC Meeting, Aug. 25, 6:30 p.m.
ANA General Membership Meeting,
Sep. 26, 6:30 p.m.

Both meetings are held at the
Northwest Recreation Center, 2913
Northland Drive, & open to the public.

Continued on page 4

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John Keohane, Jeff Marshall,
Marlene Meador, Cynthia
Pryor, and Laura Slaughter.
Donna Beth McCormick is
the Immediate Past President.

ANA General Meetings are held March and September
on the fourth Thursday of the month.

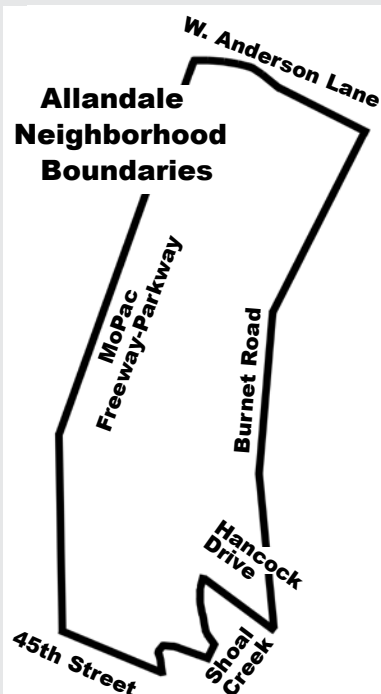
Committees

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Marlene Meador
FINANCE Laura Pressley
MEMBERSHIP Jeff Marshall
NOMINATING Marlene Meador
SAFETY Laura DiCarlo
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of Hancock): Ofc. Josh Metteauer, 974-8124, joshua.metteauer@austintexas.gov



ANA President's Letter

David Mintz

Even if you are not particularly involved in the neighborhood association, I hope you'll make plans to come to our general meeting on Thursday, September 26 at 6:30 p.m., at Northwest Recreation Center. It is sure to be a lively and interesting meeting.

One of the most significant developments that will help shape the future of our city will be the implementation of the 10-1 election plan, under which ten city council members will be elected to represent geographic districts, and the mayor will be elected at large. This plan, which was approved by voters last year, will replace the current system under which all seven city council members are elected at large. A 14-member independent commission given the task of drawing districts has started their work and will finalize maps in December in advance of the first elections under the new system in November 2014. Speakers at our meeting will address how citizens can be involved in this process. You can also follow the process at www.austintexas.gov/department/10-one.

There will also be an update on the MoPac Improvement Project and the sound wall that will be going up on Great Northern Boulevard. While this project has been several years in the making, as the construction start date gets closer there has been a great deal of discussion about the sound wall on the list-serv. We have invited representatives from the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority to provide an update and answer questions. In the meantime, if you'd like more information on the project, check out www.mopacexpress.com.

We will also be having our annual elections and voting on proposed bylaws

changes. Both the proposed bylaws changes and the slate of nominees to serve on the Executive Committee will be posted on the ANA web site, www.allandaleneighbor.com, and put on the list-serv.

As my term comes to an end, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve our neighborhood during the past year. We have had a great Executive Committee who have put in lots of time and effort to help keep Allandale a special place to live, including Vice President Kata Carbone (Bylaws Chair), Secretary Karen Knight, Treasurer Laura Pressley (Austin Neighborhoods Council Representative and Finance Chair), Joi Chevalier (Communications Chair), Bryan Glass (Zoning Chair), John Keohane, Jeff Marshall (Membership Chair) Marlene Meador (Events Co-Chair and Nominations Chair); Cynthia Pryor, and Laura Slaughter (Events Co-Chair).

There is no way to name all of the people who help us out throughout the year (and apologies in advance for anyone I've forgotten), but I would like to make special mention of a few individuals, including Laura DiCarlo, who has chaired the Safety Committee for several years; Linnea Lemon, who serves as our liaison to the Parks Department; Robert McDougal, who chaired the special committee representing Allandale in the neighborhood coalition regarding the possible development of 45th and Bull Creek; and David Orshalick who chaired a special committee that studied the possibility of creating a park along the Shoal Creek Greenbelt. In addition, thanks to Jon Etkins who moderates the list-serv, Cathy Savage who does ads and layout of our newsletter, and a special shout out to our newsletter editor Angela Caras who never complains when I miss my deadline.

Thanks also to everyone who serves as a neighborhood crime watch block captain, helped with the Fourth of July Parade, vol-

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unteered on a committee, or served in some other capacity.

Finally, words cannot express how much appreciation we owe neighborhood legends Joe Reynolds and ANA's Immediate Past President Donna Beth McCormick. Year after year, Joe and Donna Beth volunteer their time in so many ways it is impossible to describe, from Joe's work at the Capitol advocating to ensure neighborhood interests are heard when state-owned land is developed to Donna Beth acting as emcee of our Fourth of July Parade and being always willing to represent ANA at city hall.

Please thank all of these individuals when you have a chance and I hope they will serve as an inspiration for you to

become more involved in ANA.

Feel free to give me a call at 626-0113 or send me an email at dmintztx@yahoo.com, if you have any comments or concerns. ❖

Neighborhood Notes

The revised ANA bylaws are posted for review at Yarborough Library and at www.allandaleneighbor.com. The bylaws will be presented for ratification at the September 26, 2013 general membership meeting.

National Night Out will take place on the evening of October 1 (Tuesday). Please contact Laura DiCarlo for more information (lhdicarlo@yahoo.com or 529-1701)

Steven Zettner is looking for volunteers to help with tree planting and maintenance along Burnet Road. He is also looking for people who are interested in city planning issues, to help develop and communicate suggestions for the upcoming rewrite of the city land development code. Contact him at zettner@snaustin.org. ❖

Correction to the "Shoal Creek Greenbelt Restoration" article, page 7, June 2013, Vol. 38, Issue 3:

Interested neighbors can stay informed by joining www.facebook.com/groups/AllandaleShoalCreek (email AllandaleShoalCreek@groups.facebook.com). ❖



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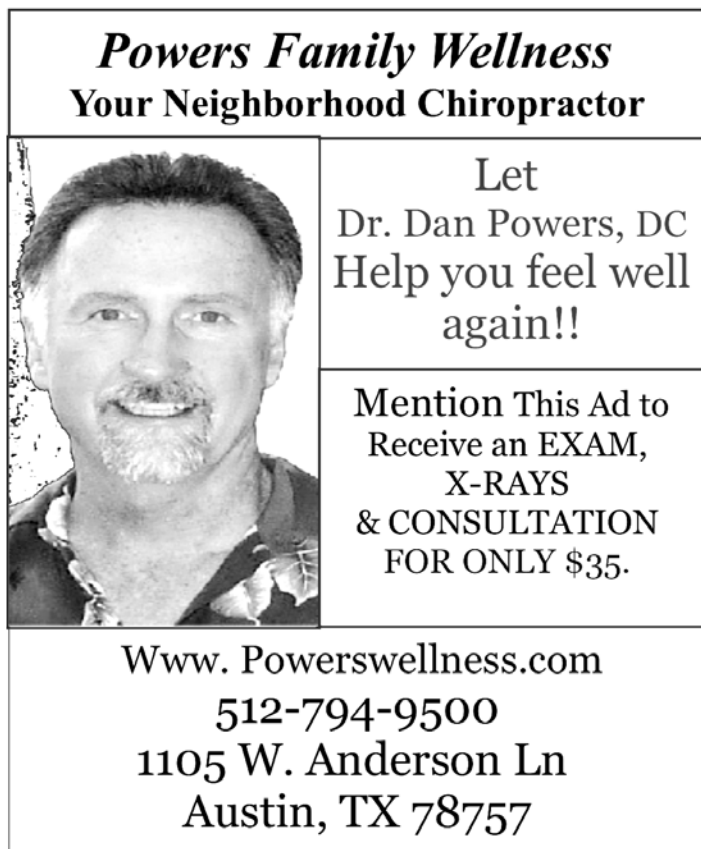
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Lamar is Going Green

Continued from front page

volume. Art students study the works of British sculptor and environmentalist Andy Goldsworthy, who makes impermanent art sculptures from objects found in nature such as flower petals, branches, and stones. The art students can visit the garden to make their own sculptures from mulch, okra seed pods, small branches, and flowers. In sixth grade, students read *Seedfolks*, a book about how the members of a diverse urban neighborhood transform an abandoned lot into a community garden. Each chapter features a different fruit or vegetable and character. Many of these plants are growing in the Lamar school garden for students to observe firsthand.

These environmental initiatives are not limited to the classrooms. Lamar and Small Middle Schools are the first two middle schools in AISD to provide school-wide composting in the cafeteria during lunch. Texas Disposal Systems has provided a special dumpster where all food and paper products are diverted from the landfill to be composted at their facility. Even plastic bags and chip bags are collected in the

lunchroom and taken to HEB for recycling. In fact, this year Lamar won Keep Austin Beautiful's Longhorn Recycle Roundup for its efforts (<http://www.keeptexasbeautiful.org/LRR2012Winners>). The school plans to incorporate even more green initiatives on its campus, including the installation of two 1000 gallon rain collection tanks—one 2500 gallons and one over 1000 gallons.

Dedicated volunteers have made these environmental policies and improvements possible at Lamar. Over the last two years, the Safe Routes to Schools Committee was responsible for the transportation improvements, new bike racks in the front and back of the school, and other initiatives to encourage walking and biking to school. This year, these volunteers continued the good work as the Sustainability Committee. To continue to implement and coordinate these environmental improvements, Lamar hopes to have an official PTA committee called the Green Team next year.

Lamar is thankful to Action for Healthy Kids, the Lamar PTA, and



Lamar's vegetable garden

Keep Austin Beautiful for the financial support to start the edible gardens. Additionally, Organics by Gosh, and Geo Growers have donated yards of soil and compost. Shoal Creek Nursery provides a generous discount to Lamar for garden plants and supplies. Lowe's Toolbox for Education has awarded Lamar Middle School a grant of \$4,300 to fund improvements at Lamar's Edible Gardens. Improvements planned are drip irrigation, an on-site storage shed, tools, and new raised beds. Lamar would like to thank Eric and Lisa Lindqvist for their donation to purchase the rainwater collection tanks in memory of Eric's parents, Patricia and Ingvar Lindqvist. These environmental initiatives would not be possible without the support of the school faculty, staff, and administration, the community, local businesses, and non-profits who are dedicated to the overall health of the environment and the students at Lamar. Just like our students, we are going to keep on growing! ❖

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Volunteers Sought for Executive Committee

Would you like to take a more active role helping the Allandale Neighborhood Association? The Nominations Committee, chaired by Marlene Meador, is currently working to develop a slate of candidates to serve on the Executive Committee (EC) for the coming year.

The EC makes recommendations for action and policy to the general membership and is empowered to conduct ANA business between membership meetings. The EC meets monthly, generally for about two hours, and members are also expected to serve on at least one standing committee, including Finance, Communications, Membership, Safety, Zoning/Planning/Land Use, Nominating, and Bylaws.

Terms run for one year and executive committee members cannot serve more than three consecutive terms. There may also not be more than one member of the EC from a household at any given time.

Elections will be held at the ANA General Meeting on Thursday, September 25 at Northwest Recreation Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.

If you are interested in being considered by the Nominations Committee please contact Marlene Meador at lmmeador1@sbcglobal.net. Nominations may also be made from the floor. ❖

July EC Meeting Highlights

David Mintz

In July's meeting, The Executive Committee passed a motion supporting the Great Austin Parks initiative, which encourages the city to provide more funding for parks maintenance and operations.

There was also a discussion about revising the guidelines governing the Allandale list-serv. In particular, concerns have been raised regarding the frequency that some people post messages (especially on the same general topic) and anonymous

posts. We will be considering possible changes at the August EC meeting.

There was an update regarding efforts to support neighbors fighting a nuisance property located on Finley. Activity is taking place on several fronts and it is hoped that there will be some action in the near future.

The EC also discussed concerns that have been raised regarding graffiti removal and general maintenance of the planned sound wall that is being built along Great Northern Boulevard as part of the MoPac Improvement Project. We will have representatives from the regional mobility authority at our September general meeting. ❖

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The Restoration of "Big Red"

Steve Johnson

A fire truck, a Dalmatian, kids, and a parade—things as American as apple pie and as Austin as Allandale. Anyone who's been around Allandale a few years remembers a fire engine, nicknamed "Big Red" by Allandale residents, in our Fourth of July parade starting in the 1970s. Many of you are probably wondering what happened to it.

Your wait is almost over. The truck, a 1930 American LaFrance fire engine, is being lovingly restored by retired Austin fire fighter Mark Gustafson.

Big Red is temporarily gone but not forgotten, patiently waiting for its day in the sun after Mark finishes restoring it.

Big Red has been in Mark's hands for two years or so. Mark primarily builds custom cars and hot rods. "It's fun and an honor to work on this vehicle," Mark says, "and it needs a lot of improvements."

Mark explains that in 1930, mechanical brakes were the industry standard on a variety of vehicles (as opposed to the hydraulic brake systems used today). You stopped this fire truck (which had a top speed of about 30mph) using a set of

levers and steel rods that apply pressure to the brake drums. The brakes work more like a go-cart than a car and it's not exactly safety-minded by today's standards!

The Truck's History

In 1931, the truck we know today as Big Red was purchased by the city of Refugio, which named it Unit 1. The truck was eventually retired from Baytown. In 1971, the Kinzels of Allandale spotted it in an auction in Georgetown, where they purchased it for \$350.

Fifteen Allandale families pitched in to make the needed repairs and rechristened her as Allandale Unit 15, aka Big Red. Dale Kinzel (who is today Dale Kirtland) says that Big Red's first official ride, in 1971, took U.S. Rep. J.J. "Jake" Pickle and others around Allandale to show them areas of concern to the neighborhood. Subsequently, Big Red appeared in Allandale Fourth of July parades starting in the 1970s.

Its other humanitarian causes include Christmas caroling, visits to nursing homes, the Gullett carnival, libraries, Anderson High School homecomings, Laguna Gloria

Art Museum festivals, and taking neighborhood children to the Dairy Queen on Burnet ("Too many times to count," chuckles Allandale resident and shade tree mechanic extraordinaire B.C. Allen).

B.C., a retired pharmacist, worked on the truck from

the time the Allandale 15 purchased it until it was donated to the Austin Fire Museum. He quips that the truck was used to fight fires "by appointment only" and tells of a time when the Austin Fire Department had to be called because Big Red started a grass fire on MoPac. "The truck had no exhaust pipe, the exhaust came straight down from the manifold. We were pulled over trying to figure out why she stopped working and accidentally started the fire. It was pretty dry like it is now."

Mr. Allen goes on to talk about the time he did possibly his most creative bit of work on the truck at Laguna Gloria. "Wasn't but one fan belt and it broke. We didn't have a replacement with us, of course, so we eventually settled on a pair of panty hose."

Dale says "I have treasured this as a divine gift that has provided incredible joy to our family and so many others. I am deeply grateful to the many others not named in this article who have given their time freely and to whom so much is owed."

Resto-Mods

The list of repairs Mark's making is impressive: brakes, suspension, engine, rear axle and other components. A small block Chevrolet V-8 engine is being built to replace the original, massive six cylinder motor. To go along with the new motor will be a heavy duty automatic transmission to replace the old 4-speed. A number of small parts will be hand crafted, and Mark is constantly searching eBay for period accessories to enhance its mystique.

Big Red will have the same outward appearance as it did when it rolled off the assembly line when it was new.

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The changes Mark is making are sometimes called “resto-mods” because the vehicle is restored and modernized for safety. Mark’s goal is to make the old fire truck safe and reliable for today’s streets without compromising the classic looks of the truck. It can be used in parades, official museum ceremonies and can be used for retired firefighter’s funerals on request.

Austin Fire Museum

Dale and David Kirtland donated Big Red to the Austin Fire Museum. Lieutenant Cohen says the truck will be the museum’s “workhorse,” seeing duty in many many parades and events other than Allandale’s; but, rest assured, it’ll be back in the Allandale parade as soon as it’s fixed up. “The museum certainly appreciates the opportunity to own and use Big Red. After completion, our plan, as promised, is to drive Big Red in the Allandale Fourth of July parade. We also

hope to take it to other events to promote the Austin Fire Museum.”

If you’re interested in seeing the museum located at the main fire station at 5th Street and Trinity, visit the museum’s web site at <http://www.austinfiremuseum.org>. The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon until 5:00 p.m. If you would like to talk to Mark about car restoration, you can contact him at The museum’s historical collection consists of Austin fire memorabilia dating as far back as the mid-19th century--brass fire nozzles, firefighter badges, pictures, documents, and even a broken marble sign from a fire station burned down by an arsonist in 1879.

markgus@austin.rr.com. ❖



Rusted but running, here’s a picture of children on the truck in 1973. (Driving is Chip Kinzel with Sam Lemmons next to him. Two Allandale neighbor kids in the back.)

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Development of the Land at Bull Creek Road and 45th Street

Joe Reynolds

With the end of the Legislature and the last vetoes signed, we can now discuss the current status of the tract of State land at 45th Street and Bull Creek.

Last summer the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) teamed with a local developer, Stratus Properties, to change the tract from the pristine dating to the time of the Republic of Texas to a dense urban development with about 1000 apartments, several six-story office buildings, a movie theater, a giant HEB and a gas station.

In response, the surrounding neighborhood associations, including Allandale, banded together to form the Bull Creek Road Coalition (BCRC). Volunteers from the BCRC contacted our state representative and senator, the developer, and the neighborhood residents. Efforts to meet with the TFC, however, were rebuffed. All aspects of the project were deemed confidential by TFC— even to the point of refusing to tell the legislators if action

concerning the tract was on the Commission agenda. TFC also failed to disclose how competing bidders would be evaluated and a “winner” chosen. Stratus Properties did get permission to meet with the neighborhoods and disclose their plans.

BCRC volunteers started working with the legislators and with the Sunset Commission. The Sunset staff and the House State Affairs Committee both reviewed TFC and listened to our concerns about secrecy, potential crony contracting, lack of public disclosure and notice, prevention of citizen comment, ignoring local planning and land use policy, and arbitrary process. Both issued recommendations to revise the development process.

Potential development of the tract is now regulated by a series of new and revised laws. The Sunset Commission and State Affairs recommendations are now law through the TFC Sunset Act, SB211. The new provisions apply statewide,

including other tracts in Austin. In writing the revised statutes, senators negotiated with the agency, the governor’s office, and the House committees. The resulting language passed the Senate unanimously and the house by a wide majority. Key provisions match those used by the General Land Office since the 1980s. Any development must now have citizen oversight and be responsive to communities.

The Bull Creek Road and 45th Street tract is designated as a Future State Cemetery, to be used when the current site (extending from 7th Street to 11th Street, and from Navasota to Comal) is full. There are no graves on the tract now. The cemetery designation prevents developers from easily getting title insurance and funding for buildings. Also, the designation was the basis of TFC’s claim that the agency should control any development there, since TFC administers many things for the State Cemetery.

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Another law, SB1871, amended the government code and allows the Cemetery Committee to renounce the designation if the tract is deemed unneeded and if the Cemetery would benefit from any "real property transaction." This law may finally allow development to begin. Renouncing the designation would hand control to TxDOT, which "bought" the land from MHMR around 1990. MHMR had developed facilities on about a third of the tract in the years since the Republic.

Since last summer new laws regulate the disposition of the tract, and any development will have to have citizen input and follow local land use policies. But, what is the desired disposition? Coming to a consensus on that big question is the next effort. It is unlikely that a single disposition for the entire tract will be reached. Some sections may be developed, some retained as parkland. Reaching a consensus will take time and dedicated volunteers.

The tract includes a length of Shoal Creek and the banks are seriously eroding;

BCRC neighbors had an engineer assess the creek status. The 45th Street Bridge, on the Northeast corner, is undergoing repeated repairs due to undercutting of piers. Part of the tract has a significant slope toward the creek. There is a narrow strip of flood plain. Last fall volunteers measured and recorded about 75 protected and heritage trees, mostly Live Oaks. There are beautiful wildflower meadows. Preliminary discussions are ongoing to conduct a plant survey of the tract, overseen by the Wildflower Center. About 25 acres have existing development, old MHMR buildings now used by TxDOT. About 50 acres are pristine. This area is considered to be the last significant open space in central Austin. The City has an existing plan, which calls for the Shoal Creek Trail to extend northward past 38th Street. The tract could be a logical and integral part of that.

There is also a strong push for development. The TFC attempt last summer to begin development is understandable. There are groups in Austin supporting this type of urbanization; the tract would

make a neighborhood center convenient for restaurants and shopping and housing. The pressure for this plan is intense.

But development will bring more congestion on both 45th Street and Bull Creek Road, cut-through traffic in Oakmont Heights, and noise and lights disturbing adjacent neighborhoods. These are all concerns for the BCRC neighborhoods. Recognizing the concerns, BCRC volunteers, including national experts from UT, have recommended a set of Development Guidelines for any proposed development—"suggestions," but a basis for encouraging citizen input.

The BCRC volunteers have already met with City officials about having as much of the tract as possible, the trees and meadows, acquired by City of Austin as open green space and as trail extension. We are scheduling meetings with the City Council, PARD Staff, and City Legal Staff to discuss the new laws. BCRC has ongoing contact with potential developers

Continued on page 10



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Development of the Land at Bull Creek Road and 45th Street

Continued from page 9

about their objectives and is holding meetings with State agencies about their plans and concerns. This will be a considerable effort and could continue for several years.

In summary, major progress was accomplished by the legislature; any development will be transparent, will include citizen input, and must conform to local planning. Change of designation allows the tract to become something other than a State Cemetery. We can now hold promise for protecting green space and for preventing the risk of sudden development before an Open Space designation can occur.

Work continues.

To see a map of the Bull Creek site, including annotations of areas of interest, please go to the Allandale Neighbor's website, <http://www.allandaleneighbor.com>. ❖

What's Going On at the Northwest Recreation Center

Rick Kocian

Ever wonder what goes on at your neighborhood recreation center? At Northwest Recreation Center, we offer a variety of programs for all ages. Among these programs are Jazzercise, Karate, and Nooners Basketball for our adult participants, After School Programs (from Lamar Middle School) and Totally Cool, Totally Art for our teenagers, Sports, Camps, and Dance Classes for children five and up, and even Soccer Shots and Mommy and Me Playtime for our preschool participants (just to name a few). In addition to these programs, we even offer seasonal events such as our Annual Halloween Trick or Treat Path & Carnival that is coming up in October!

Whether you want to register for a program offered at the center or drop in for some open gym play or games of chess or ping pong, there is a variety of offerings for

all ages. The Austin Parks and Recreation Department is currently working on its Fall-Winter Program Guide. Once the Fall-Winter Program Guide is complete, you can find a copy of it located on Northwest's website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/northwest-recreation-center>. If you're ever in the area, feel free to stop by your neighborhood center to say "Hi" and check out some of the activities we have to offer. ❖

Updates on the MoPac Improvement Project

Editor's note: MoPac forms one of the boundaries of our neighborhood and this work will have a direct impact on some of our neighbors, so it seems relevant to include information about this project in our newsletter. The following information is directly from Steve Pustelnyk, Director of Community Relations - MoPac Improvement Project.

The MoPac Improvement Project is being built under a design-build contract with CH2M HILL, an international

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engineering and construction firm. The project involves the construction of one new tolled Express Lane in each direction from Lady Bird Lake north to Parmer Lane and includes the construction of sound walls. Design work started in April and is 30% complete. In support of the design work CH2M HILL has been surveying the corridor and testing soil condi-

tions. Some limited construction work and utility relocation is expected to begin by September. Early sound wall construction will be a top priority. A detailed construction schedule is still under development [as of July 2013].

The project team has upgraded the www.mopacexpress.com web site to provide detailed information about construction

progress. There is also a hotline you can call: 512-270-5000. The project team is also using a number of social media tools to communicate with members of the community including Twitter and Facebook, and a 24 hour project hotline has been established. The project is expected to be completed in late 2015. ❖

Pack 55 Flag Retirement Project

Tim Farrell

Participating in the Allandale Fourth of July parade is something the Cub Scouts from Pack 55 always look forward to doing each year! It is with pride that we help by carrying the elected officials' signs behind the colors carried by Boy Scout Troop 410. This year was particularly special for the recognition we received from our State Senator Kirk Watson. At the end of the parade he presented our Pack with a Texas Flag that was flown over the capi-

tol and a certificate of appreciation. Pack 55 received this honor in recognition for the program we started last year to assist the community in retiring US flags. On Flag Day this year, Pack 55 retired over 50 flags for the community. It is a small way we can help, but it was a great honor to be entrusted with such an important job. If you have a flag that you would like retired please contact Tim Farrell at timfarrell_austintx@yahoo.com. ❖



Scouts and the presentation of the colors

Photo credit: Dale Rempert Photography



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Second place: Dale Lykins and Zhyra
Third place: Drew and Jennifer Patterson

TRUCKS

First place: Willie's Picnic '73 (Chris Marsh)
Second place: Fourth of July Picnic (Kevin McHorse)
Third place: Apple Moving (John Minor)

BICYCLES: GROUP

First place: Rose Petals and Flags (Jamie Larue)

Second place: Hats are Back (Cole Davis)
Third place: Miss America and Her Solider (Elizabeth Russell)

BICYCLES (SOLO)

First place: Justin and Katarine Munleeuw
Second place: Alyssa and Mary Sparks
Third place: Tucker Revis and Benjamin Knight

WALKERS (GROUP)

First place: Allandale Freedom (Lynch)
Second place: Troop 921 (Sparks)
Third place: VV4J (Turpin)

WALKERS (SOLO)

First place: David Sparks (Capt Allandale)
Second place: Linnea Bieri (Tamm Bieri)
Third place: Leah Pritchard (Rhonda Pritchard)

ANIMALS

First place: Bella (dog with skirt and balloon)
Second place: Minnie (dog with skirt and red top)
Third place: Ginger and Doodle (two guinea pigs in stroller)

SCOOTERS / SKATEBOARDS

First place: Lemonaid kids (Caroline, Charlotte, and Katherine Russell)

Second place: Owen

Third place: Ella and Nolan Hall

STROLLERS / TRICYCLES

First place: USA Owen / Sara Vera
Second place: Patriot (Madeleine Hood)
Third place: Ward Calamari

WAGONS

First place: Audrey Sandlin and Sophie Knifton
Second place: Caroline Owen (Will Owen)
Third place: Molly and Ava Waid

le 4th of July Parade!



Parade photos courtesy of Dale Rempert Photography.
For more info, visit DaleRempertPhotography.com

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Kerry Weisz, DVM
Mary Skiles, DVM
Rachel Cocchiaro, DVM

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Saturday
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Allandale Neighborhood Survey: What do YOU think?

Joi Chevalier

The results of the 2013 neighborhood quick survey are in, and they paint an interesting portrait of our neighborhood. For instance, nearly 29% of our respondents have been in Allandale for less than five years! It probably isn't surprising that so many new folks are coming to Allandale, as it is a desirable place to live. The fact that some of our resident respondents have been in Allandale for over 40 years speaks to the quality of life in our neighborhood.

Allandale is a wonderful neighborhood with much to offer, and residents cited many different reasons for choosing to live here, but the top reasons included location, quality of life, schools, trees, and parks.

We also asked respondents to describe, in their own words, why they chose to live in Allandale. People used words like non-pretentious, diversity, family, tolerance, character, walkability, bike-friendly (kinda), maintained, close-knit, medical access, more businesses around, more progressive, restaurants, and buses.

When asked about the top issues that face Allandale, residents cited crime, traffic, zoning, city planning and growth. Residents were also asked to list, in their own words, their concerns. Many responses come back to the healthy integration of businesses into the neighborhood (literally and figuratively), like managing VMU (Vertical Mixed Use) development. Other concerns included diversity, road and sidewalk improvements, and Short Term Rentals and Vacation Rentals by Owner. Many of these are long-term issues on which the ANA (Allandale Neighborhood Association) should establish positions in order to work strategically with city officials in a less reactive way.

Survey responders also voiced opinions about what they would like to see change in Allandale, including a better mix of walking, sidewalks, and bicycling; less resistance to changes on Burnet Road; improved neighborhood business relations; lowering of appraisals and taxes; and better code and law enforcement.

One thing that jumps out of this is the relatively large percentage of people who

are concerned about crime in the neighborhood, as Allandale is also considered a friendly place where neighbors look out for each other (not to mention their pets) – most said not only do they talk with their neighbors regularly on neighborhood issues, they trusted their neighbors well enough that they ask them to keep an eye on their homes while on vacation. This was such an interesting statistic that we commissioned resident David Serrins to wade into the numbers and answer the question of whether Allandale really is a safe place to live.

A series of questions asked about communications with you. Most who responded, despite also being on the list-serve, thought that phone calls would be effective, along with special ANA direct or email mailings, and an ANA Facebook page. The communications team is looking into ways of augmenting our current portal and integrating with other technologies. But some of our direct next steps involve features to the newsletter and ANA portal site:

- turning on calendaring feature for all members to post events;
- creating an ANA Special Notice from the Communications Team, which will go to the group's subscribing members directly, regardless of subscription set up, and will include things like ANA meeting minutes;
- posting newsletter as a file on the Yahoo portal;
- establishing a newsletter archive; and
- creating new newsletter features including a community announcements box

Compared to the neighborhood's approximately 460 households that are ANA members, 108 (almost one-fourth) participated in this survey. We are sure that the rest of you have some great opinions to share, and the ANA is always interested in hearing from you. To find out how you can get more involved, or just to have your say, contact ANA Board President, David Mintz, dmintztx@yahoo.com, or ANA Communications lead, Joi Chevalier, kitjer@snikte.net. ❖

A Brief Look at Neighborhood Crime Statistics

David Serrins

Allandale appears to be a wonderful neighborhood, a safe place to live and play. However, crime was one of the greatest concerns expressed in responses to the recent neighborhood survey. A review of Austin Police Department databases shows that Allandale continues to have a low level of crime. Violent crime in Allandale is rare. Between January 2007 and June 2013 (6.5 years), the Austin Police Department collected non-domestic / family-related reports of three aggravated assaults, one arson, two attempted kidnappings, four purse snatchings, one sexual assault, and zero homicides.

Laura DiCarlo, Chair of the Allandale Neighborhood Safety Committee, regularly reports in The Allandale Neighbor on burglaries of vehicles and residences. In the February 2013 issue, Tom Linehan provided a chart and analysis of these two offenses from 2009 through 2012. See http://www.allandaleneighbor.com/ana_newsletter/2013/February%202013.pdf

The chart shown here is the same chart from Mr. Linehan's article with the addition of 2013 data to date. The following graphs

Crime Stats - Allandale Neighborhood												
	2009 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burglary of Residence	2	5	12	6	9	5	2	3	4	13	5	69
Burglary of Vehicle	11	20	16	9	16	14	10	13	7	12	7	11
												244
	2010 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burglary of Residence	10	7	4	10	2	1	0	5	5	4	3	56
Burglary of Vehicle	16	12	8	9	13	23	8	6	8	9	14	17
												139
	2011 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burglary of Residence	6	3	1	4	7	6	3	5	4	5	3	48
Burglary of Vehicle	7	11	5	20	10	8	12	13	10	18	7	6
												127
	2012 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burglary of Residence	8	2	1	1	1	1	4	3	5	2	3	29
Burglary of Vehicle	11	7	11	18	33	8	4	7	8	7	14	21
												141
	2013 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Burglary of Residence	2	2	1	2	1	1						
Burglary of Vehicle	8	11	1	13	18	13						

compare that data to the entire city and two neighborhoods adjacent to Allandale. Please note that the graphs do not show the actual number of incidents. Instead, the graphs are normalized to allow of side-by-side comparisons. They show the number of incidents per 100,000 residents in each area based on populations reported in the 2010 Census: Austin 790,637; Allandale 8,858; Brentwood 7,455; and Northwest Austin Civic Association 18,145.

Statistics used to create these graphics

Continued on page 16

A Brief Look at Neighborhood Crime Statistics

Continued from page 15

exist in the public domain available on the web from the Austin Police Department. For the information provided in this article, Allandale neighborhood boundaries are those shown on page two of this newsletter; Brentwood neighborhood boundaries are Justin Lane to the north, Burnet Road to the west, Lamar Boulevard to the east, 45th Street to the south, and excluding Triangle Commons ("The Triangle"); Northwest Austin Civic Association boundaries are Spicewood Springs Road to the north, Hwy 360 / Capital of Texas Highway to the west, MoPac to the east, and FM 2222 to the south. In other words, Brentwood is Allandale's neighbor to the east and Northwest Austin Civic Association is to the west.



To search APD databases, visit these links:
<http://austintexas.gov/departments/crime-information>
<http://www.krimelabb.com/>
http://www.krimelabb.com/_nca1/view/v_neighborhood.php ❖

Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo

I understand that the results of a recent survey conducted in Allandale indicate residents are concerned about crime. I wonder if this worry comes from the fact that crime is discussed so often on the list-serv. We want to make folks aware and remind everyone to stay alert when there is suspicious or criminal activity, but perhaps a false impression has been made that our neighborhood is more dangerous than it has been in the past.

The Allandale Neighborhood Watch program that we have in place today started after an initial meeting in 2007. We had a formal training from the Austin Police Department (APD) in April 2008, and I have trained dozens and dozens of block captains since. We started patrols in February of 2010, in response to daytime Burglary of Residences (BORs), but there are just a few active patrols these days as we don't have a current problem. Patrols instead spend more time reporting and cleaning up graffiti.

During a presentation to the CLASP in April, APD Sergeant Brian Manley indicated that violent crime is down citywide



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but that over the years property crime has continued to rise. The police reports that I analyze for my monthly safety report indicate that BORs have gone down for the past few years in Allandale while Burglary of Vehicles (BOVs) have risen.

The only BOR since the end of May occurred midday June 28 on Fairlane. Someone broke down the front door and burgled the house while a neighbor heard the whole thing, but thought it was the home owner's son unloading his equipment. This was very scary as the home-owner almost came in while the burglary was in progress. You can help prevent future incidents by installing three-inch screws in strike plates to make it much harder to knock down doors (this is called "hardening the target") and by calling 911 immediately if you hear anything going on at your house or your neighbor's house.

There have been 17 BOVs since the last newsletter, but if you break down the data only three of them occurred at single family homes (on Northland, Daugherty, and White Rock). Six of them occurred at 2525 Anderson Lane, which is the Northcross parking lot.

One of the BOVs occurred at NW Park and Pool and another happened when a car was parked at the North West Little League ball fields. BOVs at the pool and during

baseball games have been happening for probably as many years as the facilities have been open. A good strategy to use at public places like parks and shopping centers is to hide your valuables in your trunk before you get there so that someone watching will not see your belongings.

The last three BOVs occurred at apartments on Foster Lane and Hancock. I am going to be talking with apartment managers in the fall about a watch program for their buildings and grounds. Please let me know if you would like to get involved with this.

National Night Out (NNO) parties will occur Tuesday evening, October 1. NNO is about citizens and law enforcement agencies coming together to promote awareness of crime and drug prevention and to strengthen police / community partnerships. Block captains will invite neighbors to outdoor parties that

APD, AFD, EMS, or Code Compliance can be invited to visit. If you don't hear about a NNO party happening on your street and would like one to have one, let me know.

Please contact me at lhdicarlo@yahoo.com or 529-1701 if you are interested in getting involved in the safety committee. We could always use more block captains, help with graffiti reporting and removal, and patrolling at night when the BOVs occur. Higher participation makes us more helpful to APD and creates a safer neighborhood. ❖

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Plans for Allandale's Transit Corridors

Steven Zettner

Changes are coming to many of Allandale's main transit corridors. Many projects are in various stages of planning and construction, including street improvements to make Burnet more pedestrian friendly, and the addition of bus stops for the new MetroRapid buses. If you use any of the main corridors around Allandale, these changes will affect you. Read on to learn what is in store for North Central Austin.

2012 bond funds will go to Burnet Road improvements

Part of the money from the 2012 bond package will go toward pedestrian improvements on Burnet Road. The way the process works is that inter-departmental meetings will be held first, and then ideas from these meetings will be taken to the public for further refinement.

Five of the neighborhoods that border Burnet Road (Allandale, Brentwood, Crestview, North Shoal Creek, and Wooten) have already come together to present their common goals for improvements to the Burnet Road corridor. These goals include

- Support for sidewalks near schools and at "bottleneck" locations where there are few or no alternative routes,
- Realignment of right-turn lanes at Koenig and Anderson so that cars stop before turning,
- Provision of modest additional space and removal of sidewalk obstacles at the HEB on Koenig, in preparation for the planned MetroRapid bus stop,
- Creation of a "community gateway" at the Lamar Middle School corner of Burnet and Koenig, encouraging a safe crossing by students and others,
- Provision of a pocket park near the Farmers Market,
- Creation of an integrated pedestrian and parking zone on the east side of Burnet from Anderson to Mahone,

- Realignment of sidewalks away from the street near Burnet-Steck-Ohlen, in support of the planned MetroRapid bus station, the Steck Library, and Burnet Middle School,
- Filling out any remaining sidewalk gaps and repair of existing sidewalks in poor condition,
- Installation of crosswalks at several locations, and
- A limited segment of cycle track, above the curb and away from car traffic, near Lamar Middle School (this feature was not prioritized by the Allandale Neighborhood Association).

Project manager Demira Wyatt has acknowledged the strong engagement of the local community in defining these priorities, and she intends to work closely with the community as work progresses.

North Austin Transit Plan

Capital Metro representatives presented the most recent draft of its Project Connect North Austin corridor plan at a Sustainable Neighborhoods meeting on July 18. This plan envisions up to six

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rapid transit options to reach downtown from Pflugerville, Round Rock, and Georgetown. Four of these options – rapid bus on Burnet and North Lamar, commuter rail on MoPac, and the Red Line– serve North Central Austin.

The North Corridor Plan, which should finish up late this year, currently offers three alternative approaches with different transit options for North Austin. All three offer the same options for North Central Austin between Highway 183 and 45th Street.

Sustainable Neighborhoods (SN) asked that CapMetro consider an additional rapid bus line serving Anderson Lane and connecting southeast to Airport Boulevard and northwest to the Arboretum and Jollyville Road.

The SN proposal is intended to lock down the location of transit stations before the City makes land use changes in the future corridor plan. This is because ideally most new housing would be built close to the transit stations, so that new residents don't have to drive and add congestion to the area. Todd Hemingson, CapMetro's vice president of strategic planning, said that his team

would evaluate the proposal.

Rapid bus (MetroRapid) is scheduled to start service on North Lamar in early 2014, Hemingson said. Stations are already being built. Service on Burnet will start in late 2014. Allandale will be served by four stations: "North Loop," "Koenig West," "Justin," and "Northcross."

City Council passes transit plaza amendment

The City Council recently passed an amendment to the Commercial Design Standards ordinance that would require that when any commercial property over two acres next to a rapid bus station is redeveloped, some space for pedestrians should be arranged in support of the rapid bus station."

Sustainable neighborhoods had originally proposed that 50% of currently undeveloped space be arranged in support of the transit station. However, the city council reduced that

amount significantly, after listening to other feedback, including arguments that corridors like Burnet don't currently have enough pedestrian utilization to "activate" larger percentages of space. Sustainable Neighborhoods replied that such spaces are needed to support the higher residential densities that are planned for Burnet Road in the future.

Council Member Laura Morrison expressed hope that the conversation resulting from the amendment would carry forward to the zoning code rewrite process, now under way. ♦

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Hot Rod Coffee

Robin Senor

If you drive too quickly down Burnet you might miss some of the best coffee Austin has to offer.

Hot Rod Coffee trailer at 6486 Burnet Road brews premium organic, fair-trade, locally roasted coffee six days a week, and you'll usually be lucky enough to get service from friendly, outgoing owner Ken Bell. The trailer sits in front of the TXR Audio Store and offers not just coffee but also hot dogs, pastries, and breakfast sandwiches. In fact, this little coffee trailer wins rave reviews of "best hot dog in Austin" from more than a few reviewers on Yelp.

Ken opened his trailer in 2011 and originally parked it next to the farmer's market on Burnet. It quickly became a fixture at the market and gained a loyal following from those looking to grab a coffee or quick bite while doing their Saturday shopping. However, the location did not provide great visibility for drive-by traffic so in 2012 Ken moved his busi-

ness across the street in front of TXR Audio (just south of the corner of Addison and Burnet).

Ken's idea for the coffee trailer was borne from Ken's lifelong love of coffee and motorcycles, and an interest in bringing cars, motorcycles and coffee together. "When I was working a so to speak 'real job,' I always built in time to get a coffee," Ken explains. A California native, he was a weekend biker, or "warrior," and rode with groups of bikers who wore long beards and leather.

"Most of us wouldn't hurt a fly," he explains "but, especially the bikers I was with, well, we all looked kinda scary. Lots of leather, you don't shave when you go out riding. So we would go to biker friendly places where people tended not to be alarmed." Car enthusiasts would also naturally gravitate toward the places where bikers gathered, and the locations became weekend hotspots for those looking to show off their bikes and cars. Ken's hope was to create a similar spot in Austin, and so far, he has been successful. Weekly biker groups the Two Wheel Texans and the Capitol City Rockers have

made his trailer their meeting place on weekdays and weekends.

Of course this doesn't mean the shop is any less kid friendly; it is in fact full family friendly including your four-legged family members; Ken keeps water bowls and dog cookies handy for your pups. He extends his kindness far beyond his trailer and has historically been very involved in philanthropy, using his leverage in the biking community to organize toy drives for needy children at Christmas as well as fundraiser rides for wounded soldiers returning from war.

And as for riding? Well, Ken doesn't get much time to do that anymore, as he is there to greet you at the trailer six days a week. But he's fulfilling a dream. And for those of us looking for good coffee and a nice breakfast snack in Allandale, he's certainly also filling a great neighborhood niche.

*Hot Rod Coffee, 6546 Burnet Road
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Gullett Good News

Debbie Trominski

Gullett is a school like no other place, and we have had a busy June and July, with many exciting summer camps. As we roll into August and gear up for back-to-school there will be lots more going on to kick off the new school year. Before I highlight what's to come I would first like to offer a heartfelt thanks, on behalf of the Gullett PTA, to Stephanie Schultz, who has been writing the Gullett Good News column for the past six years. I am happy to be taking her place to inform our community about all the great things happening at our school and with Allandale's youngest residents.

News

Tell your friends! There is space for approximately 13 additional kindergarten transfers. This is a rare opportunity for families outside of Allandale to get their children into our top-notch school.

There will be some terrific changes next year including a greatly enhanced selection of after school learning opportunities. More information will be available after the school year gets underway.

Mornings will be more active too. Before school begins there will be supervised playtime on the playgrounds and track (or dancing in the cafeteria in case of rain).

The animal population is expected to remain stable with no new additions; however, a large new aviary will be coming onto campus soon and a few critters may swap locations.

Events

New student registration took place from August 12 through August 14. Welcome new students! We are looking forward to meeting our new friends!

Come see the class lists and show off your roller skating skills at the Skateland Back-to-School Party! Entry is five dollars per skater and the event runs from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 22.

The first day of school is Monday, August 26, and the Friday before that is the always exciting Meet the Teacher event. From 11:00-1:00 on August 23, stop by to meet your teacher and get familiar with your new classroom. This year has a great new twist! Our new PTA chairs have been in training this summer and are hosting the first ever ice cream social during Meet the Teacher. All are welcome to come by to learn more about

Gullett's fantastic PTA and how you can be involved in making our school the best it can be.

Back-to-School Night will be on Wednesday, September 4, beginning at 6:00 p.m. This is an important event that parents won't want to miss. Parents gather in their child's classroom and learn about the teacher, curriculum and other important details of their child's day-to-day experience as a student.

And for a dose of big fun, it's not too early to begin planning for the Fall Carnival, which will take place from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26. This event is open to everyone near and far, and this year there will be a focus on adding more small child-friendly games so that Geckos-to-be can begin forming fond memories of Gullett before they reach Kindergarten. Hilarious favorites such as the haunted house (will there be an encore of the floating head?) and giant hamster balls will be better than ever. Will the cake walk reward more than 1000 cupcakes again? Come find out! Gullett alumni (that's you, middle and high schoolers) are encouraged to volunteer. Local businesses, you are invited too!

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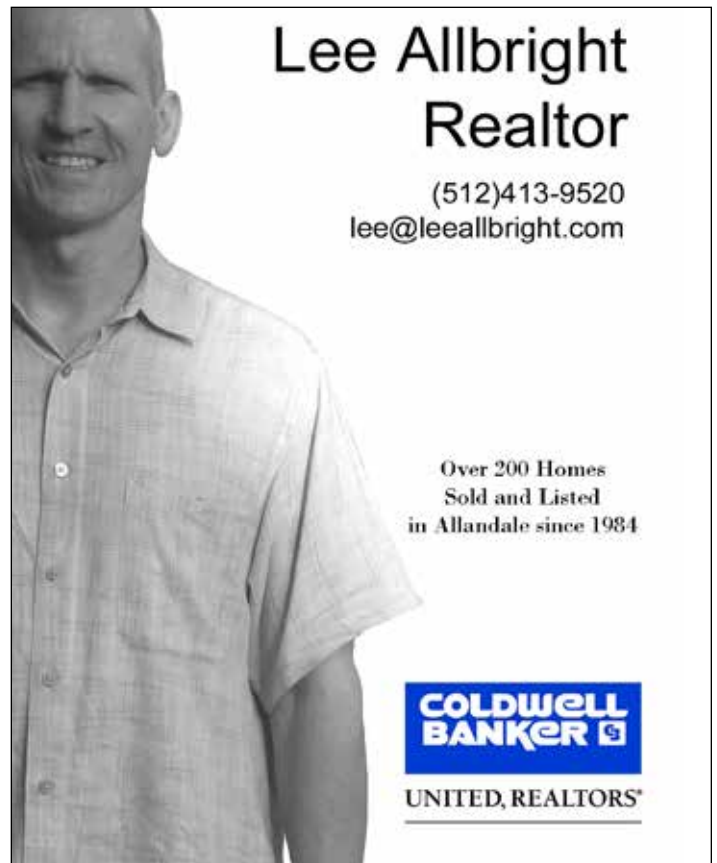
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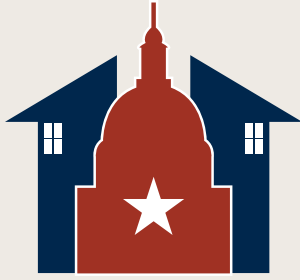
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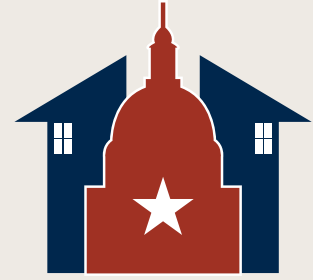


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Gullet Good News

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500+ families would love for you to sell, sample food, or host a game or informational booth. For any questions or more information about Fall Carnival, contact Laura Beck, laura@stripedshirt.com.

Upcoming Event Summary:

August 22, 6 – 8:00 p.m.: Back-to-School Skate Party

August 23, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Meet the Teacher, PTA Ice Cream Social

August 26: First day of classes. Tardy bell is at 7:45!

September 4, 6:00 p.m.: Back-to-School Night

October 26, 12 – 4:00 p.m.: Fall Carnival

Wildflowers and Flower Bulbs for Spring Bloom

Ginger Soule

Many desirable wildflowers require little ground preparation prior to planting. In nature, seeds merely drop or blow to nearby areas. Hard coated seeds are abraded by gritty soil and softened by rain, then germinate at the right time determined by temperature and daylight hours. Bluebonnets, California poppies, Drummond Phlox and cultivated flowers such as larkspur should be planted in September. Tiny seeds should be covered with a light sprinkling of soil, only one fourth of an inch. Larger seeds can be covered by half an inch of soil. Ground covered with leaf litter or mulch should be swept clear so seeds can make good contact with soil. Re-mulch afterward. If fall rains fail, watering is not necessary.

Bulbs fit nicely into our summer climate because they want to be dry through the summer after providing spectacular winter and spring bloom, and those adapted to our area will increase nicely each year. Unfortunately, big box stores don't carry appropriate selections for Central Texas. All botany is highly specific, and not all bulbs will grow and bloom in all regions of the country. Try Barton Springs Nursery and the Natural Gardener, or go online to the following

three mail-order nurseries that I highly recommend: McClure & Zimmerman (<https://www.mzbulb.com>), www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com, and www.oldhousegardens.com.

They all give valuable info about which bulbs will grow in our area (Zone 8, and more specifically sub-zone 8b). Old House Gardens is a specialty nursery that sells only heirloom and genetically identified stock. If you only want flowers and aren't interested in the history or botany of bulbs, the other nurseries are just fine.

Because bulbs originated in many diverse climates and different altitudes, their climatic adaptability is quite varied. The best tulip for our area is "Clusiana," but NOT the Dutch hybrids. Clusiana (white with red outer petals and magenta center) requires no chilling and will actually multiply from year to year. Choose daffodils from these subgroups: Paperwhites (earliest); Large Cup, not Trumpet daffodils; Jonquils (wonderful fragrance); and Tazettas (large clusters of small blossoms which stay in bloom a long time). For more detailed info about varieties of bulbs, call me at 477-6812. Also, I will be presenting a slide show of the best bulbs for our area on September 9, 2013, at Zilker Botanical. Arrive by 7:00 p.m. as they lock the gates shortly after that. In the October newsletter and at my presentation I will give information on ground preparation and planting, as October is the ideal time to plant. I will give handouts at the presentation. ❖

Real Estate Corner

Ruth E. Powers

Once you are ready to sell your home, there are crucial steps beyond de-cluttering that should be taken.

An initial step is to make the front your home attractive enough to get folks to want to see the interior. The WOW factor should start at the curb if you want to entice prospective buyers.

Take a walk around the block; look at it from different angles to see what others see from different viewpoints. Is there a walkway or a pathway that is clearly marked towards your front door? Can you see the front of the house? I know that sounds a little bizarre but sometimes folks plant big bushes or have "yard art" that

block the visual front of the home. Trimming and scaling back those bushes is probably one of the cheapest and easiest ways to start.

Another thing to consider is the address of the home. Is it clearly marked? Even if the number is painted on the curb, consider purchasing some nice sized numbers that are plainly visible, and displaying the address from the house directly.

The other item to consider is the exterior paint. Is it flaking or peeling? Consider painting your house a neutral color to attract more prospective buyers.

Try to think like a buyer when you look at the front of your home. Is the driveway and sidewalk clear and clean? Is it time for a power wash? After years of tree sap, leaves, and dirt, a good power wash can brighten the walkway.

Is the door hardware tarnished or shining? As Chef Emeril would say when adding his final, crowning touch: BAM! This is where you can really nail it. New or shiny hardware and a nice kick plate can speak volumes about how much you care about your home. A clean updated light fixture on the front porch or entryway also enhances curb appeal.

Selling a home can be easy or difficult; part of the challenge is getting it ready for someone else who may have a different perspective. Getting them in the door is half the battle.

If you WOW them from the start, and then proceed to "BAM" them with your interior, you can sell a home faster than selling a home "as is." Not to mention the amazing difference in selling price! In my experience selling "as is" means leaving a lot of money on the table, as we say in real estate.

If you are thinking of selling, consider the effects of a good "BAM" from the curb in! ❖

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about the Yard Bar, which is
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property on Burnet Road; and
more online only content.

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